

**MINI-GRANT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
RFA NO.: ECE031810**

Questions and Answers

1. How many new infant/toddler slots does OSSE/ECE consider a success throughout the life of this contract?

Applicants should make a determination based on their own research.

2. Can OSSE/ECE give very specific demographical information as to what ward is in the most need of infant/toddler slots?

OSSE/ECE publishes Child Care Profiles on its website. Please visit:
<http://osse.dc.gov/seo/cwp/view,a,1224,q,561963,seoNav,%7C31193%7C.asp>

3. Can OSSE/ECE provide a list of childcare facilities that are currently participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program in the wards with the greatest needs?

Contact the Washington Child Development Council (WCDC) in the District of Columbia. This organization can provide a list of childcare facilities that participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program. The WCDC can be reached at (202) 387-0002 and through its website - www.daycareindc.org.

4. How does OSSE define a “community development financial intermediary”? Are there eligibility requirements to be considered as a CDFI?

Community Development Financial Institutions or CDFIs are specialized financial institutions that promote community and economic development. They include community development banks, credit unions, loan funds, venture capital funds and microenterprise loan funds. Broadly speaking, a CDFI is defined as a financial institution that has a primary mission of community development, serves a target market, is a financing entity, also provides development services, remains accountable to its community, and is a nongovernment entity.

Applicants for this grant are not required to be a CDFI. However, applicants should have the capacity to manage sub-grants and to promote, administer, manage and monitor a mini-grant program focused on the expansion, conversion and start up of infant and toddler child care slots. Applicants can also partner with organizations, such as CDFIs, that have experience funding community development projects.

CDFIs are certified by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which provides funds to CDFIs by a variety of programs. Additional information regarding CDFI eligibility is available online.

5. Are matching funds required? There is a column for matching funds on the budget form, but I did not see a percentage required for matching funds.

Matching funds are not required. However, we are interested in knowing whether you have other funding sources for this project. Furthermore, we encourage grantees to seek funding from other sources.

6. If [my organization] has a federally negotiated indirect cost rate that exceeds the 10% allowed by the grant, can we ask for the higher indirect cost rate?

No.

7. How much (what percentage) of the grant funds should be used for administrative functions, and how much should be allotted for the mini-grants?

At least seventy-five percent (75%) should be used for mini-grants. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) should be used for all other costs.

8. How will OSSE fund this program for the four option years if ARRA funding ends in 2012?

Any extension of the performance period beyond the initial base year is contingent upon compliance with all terms and conditions of the award, program and fiscal requirements, evidence of satisfactory grant performance and the availability of funds. The availability of funds is determined each year. District agencies are required to develop budgets and spending plans that must be approved by the Council. These budgets and spending plans take into account federal funding and District of Columbia appropriations to fund grants as well as funding that may come in from additional sources (e.g. ARRA). Also, the funding source can change from year to year.

9. Will OSSE ask for applicants for this (or a similar) program next year, or will it release an RFP at the end of the option year period?

According to the Request for Applications (RFA), at its option, OSSE/ECE may extend the performance period up to twelve (12) months (i.e., one year) at a time and may exercise this option up to four (4) times. The grantee is not required to reapply for the grant. The OSSE/ECE will renew the grant.

At the end of the total performance period – typically the sum of the base period plus four (4) one-year option periods – the OSSE/ECE may determine to continue the project and will issue a new RFA to seek a new grantee.

10. Can my organization provide mini-grants to its delegate agencies?

Mini-grants cannot be set aside or earmarked for certain organizations. These mini-grants must be made available to all who qualify on the same basis.